surface, the belt forming an endless loop, an improvement comprising at least one aperture from the polishing surface through the side opposite the polishing surface so that the aperture is substantially free of a window, the aperture positioned on the belt to allow monitoring of the workpiece through the aperture;

B1 cont'd

one of a notch along a first edge of the belt and trigger hole, the notch or trigger hole positioned relative to the aperture;

a monitor positioned to sense the workpiece through the aperture; and

a sensor positioned such that passing of the trigger hole or notch activates the monitor.

SUB D1

6. (amended) The belt of Claim 1 wherein the one of the trigger hole and the notch comprises a notch along a first edge of the belt, the notch positioned relative to the aperture.

B2

7. (amended) The belt of Claim 1 wherein the one of the trigger hole and the notch comprises a trigger hole positioned relative to the aperture.

Please add claims 24-38 as follows:

SUB D1

--24. The belt of Claim 1 further comprising a fluid platen adjacent the belt, the fluid platen operable to provide liquid and gas pressure to the belt.

B3

25. The belt of Claim 24 wherein the fluid platen is operable to provide water pressure at a center of the fluid platen and gas pressure outward from the center.

26. The belt of Claim 1 further comprising a fluid platen adjacent the belt, the fluid platen operable to provide humidified air pressure.

27. The belt of Claim 1 further comprising a source of suction adjacent the at least one aperture.

28. A belt comprising (a) a polishing surface for polishing a workpiece in a chemical mechanical linear polishing system and (b) a side opposite the polishing surface, the belt forming an endless loop, an improvement comprising at least one aperture from the polishing surface through the side opposite the polishing surface so that the aperture is substantially free of a window, the aperture positioned on the belt to allow monitoring of the workpiece through the aperture; and

a fluid platen adjacent the side opposite, the fluid platen operable to provide liquid and gas pressure.

29. The belt of Claim 28 wherein the belt has two substantially parallel edges and the aperture is centered between the two substantially parallel edges.

30. The belt of Claim 28 wherein the aperture comprises a substantially circular shape.

31. The belt of Claim 28 wherein the belt has at least three apertures through the belt.

32. The belt of Claim 31 wherein the at least three apertures are spaced evenly around the endless loop.

33. The belt of Claim 28 further comprising a notch along a first edge of the belt, the notch positioned relative to the aperture.

34. The belt of Claim 28 further comprising a trigger aperture positioned relative to the aperture.

35. The belt of Claim 28 wherein the fluid platen is operable to provide water pressure at a center of the fluid platen and gas pressure outward from the center.

36. The belt of Claim 28 wherein the fluid platen is operable to provide humidified air pressure.